



VA Health Care Upstate New York
VA Western New York Healthcare System
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National Salute to Veteran Patients

VA Western New York Healthcare System Invites Veterans and Community to Open House

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Salute is observed annually during the week of Valentine's Day, a day of caring and sharing which underscores the Salute's expression of honor and appreciation to inpatient and outpatient Veterans, February 8-14. VA Western New York Healthcare System invites Veterans and the public to participate in an open-house at the Buffalo site, 3495 Bailey Avenue, on Friday, February 13, during the National Salute to Veteran Patients. All Veterans are encouraged to attend the special ceremony to introduce local celebrities in Freedom Hall, room 301 at 1 p.m.

For the thirty-seventh consecutive year, the nationally syndicated column started by Ann Landers, now called "Annie's Mailbox" has devoted a column to the National Salute, asking readers to send Valentine cards and letters to hospitalized Veterans at VA medical centers. "The colorful Valentine cards made by school children will be displayed and distributed to Veterans," said VA Medical Center Director Brian G. Stiller. "The messages in these cards to our Veteran patients reflect how much we care about them. You can also show some very special patients at VA Western New York Healthcare System how much you care by visiting them during the National Salute to Veteran Patients," said Stiller.

Local celebrities and civic officials and groups will be here to show their support, including Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Buffalo Bills Alumni, UB Football coach and players, WIVB-TV Meteorologist, Don Paul, WGRZ-TV Reporter Steve Brown, WKBW-TV AM Buffalo Host Linda Pellegrino, and local Veterans Service Officers.

Director Stiller encourages Veterans who may be visiting for the first time to know we are here to serve their health care needs, and to stop in to the Veterans Service Center to enroll in VA health care. In addition, the public can learn about volunteer opportunities at this special event. "Our medical center's volunteers are an important part of our health care team and the National Salute program is a great way for people to learn more about helping Veterans we serve here at the medical center," Stiller said.

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